

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-18. (canceled).

19. (new): An ink cartridge comprising:
an ink container;
a non-volatile storage medium, which is mounted on the ink cartridge,
wherein information is readable and writeable to the non-volatile storage medium
contactlessly from outside a package containing the ink cartridge.

20. (new): The ink cartridge according to claim 19, wherein the package is a retail
package.

21. (new): The ink cartridge according to claim 19, further comprising a coil, which is
coupled to the non-volatile storage medium and mounted on the ink cartridge, wherein
information is readable from and written to the non-volatile storage medium through the coil.

22. (new): The ink cartridge according to claim 21, wherein the coil is separated from the non-volatile storage medium by a certain distance.

23. (new): The ink cartridge according to claim 19, wherein the package is a decompressed package.

24. (new): The ink cartridge according to claim 19, wherein the package is hermetically sealed.

25. (new): The ink cartridge according to claim 19, wherein ink stored in the ink container is deaerated.

26. (new): A method for using an ink cartridge, the method comprising:
determining whether the ink cartridge has been purchased; and
if the ink cartridge has been purchased, contactlessly writing information to the ink cartridge.

27. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the information is purchase data.

28. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the information is service provision data.

29. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the information is confidential information.

30. (new): The method according to claim 29, wherein the confidential information is a web page universal resource locator.

31. (new): A system comprising:
an ink cartridge comprising an ink container and a non-volatile storage medium, which is mounted on the ink cartridge, wherein information is readable and writeable to the non-volatile storage medium contactlessly from outside a package containing the ink cartridge; and
a data writing device comprising a coil; and a memory interface, which is coupled to the coil,
wherein upon purchase of the ink cartridge, the data writing device is used to contactlessly write information to the non-volatile storage medium of the ink cartridge from outside the package containing the ink cartridge.

32. (new): The system according to claim 31, wherein the information is purchase data.

33. (new): The system according to claim 31, wherein the information is service provision data.

34. (new): The system according to claim 31, wherein the information is confidential information.

35. (new): The system according to claim 34, wherein the confidential information is a web page universal resource locator.

36. (new): A data writing device comprising:
a coil; and
a memory interface, which is coupled to the coil,
wherein upon purchase of an ink cartridge, the data writing device is used to contactlessly write information to a non-volatile storage medium contained in the ink cartridge from outside a package containing the ink cartridge

37. (new): A method of using an ink cartridge comprising:
reading information stored in a non-volatile storage medium of the ink cartridge;
checking the information for purchase data; and

if the information is purchase data, starting processing in a printer in which the ink cartridge is installed.

38. (new): The method according to claim 37, wherein the information is read when the ink cartridge is first installed in the printer.

39. (new): The method according to claim 37, wherein the information is read when power is applied to the printer.